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SUBJECT: EXBS: UPDATE ON NP COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE
AGREEMENT

REF: 2005 ANKARA 3358

1. (SBU) Post has been actively following the progress of the Turkish Parliament's review of the Bi-lateral Agreement with Turkey Regarding Cooperation to Facilitate the Provision of Assistance for Preventing the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction. The Agreement has been reviewed and endorsed by the Foreign Relations Committee and sent to the General Assembly for ratification. Initial review of the Agreement occurred in mid-October and we are now awaiting final ratification. The Agreement has been one of the top four agenda items since the Grand National Assembly reconvened in early October.

2. (SBU) Ambassador sent separate letters to the Speaker of the Turkish Grand National Assembly, Bulent Arinc and Chairman of Foreign Relations Committee, Mehmet Dulger, on October 16, 2006 encouraging the ratification of this agreement. Ambassador noted that ratification of this Agreement will strengthen our cooperation in the fight against terrorism and proliferation.

3. (SBU) Dulger confirmed to Political Counselor on October 30 that Parliament is continuing to review the Agreement and he expects it to be ratified soon.

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